

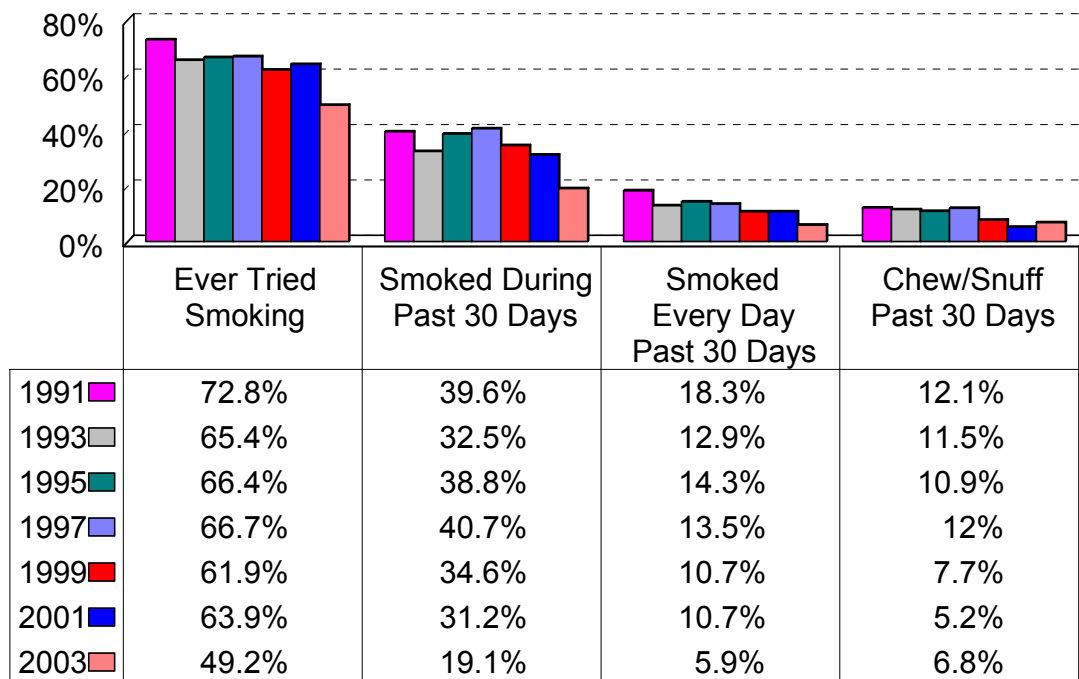
Tobacco Use

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey includes questions on smoking frequency, intensity, history and cessation attempts; how cigarettes are obtained; smoking on school property; and smokeless tobacco and cigar use. This relates to one of the 2010 Health Objectives: Reduce disease, disability, and death related to tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke by preventing initiation of tobacco use, promoting cessation of tobacco use, reducing exposure to secondhand smoke, and changing social norms and environments that support tobacco use.

Highlights

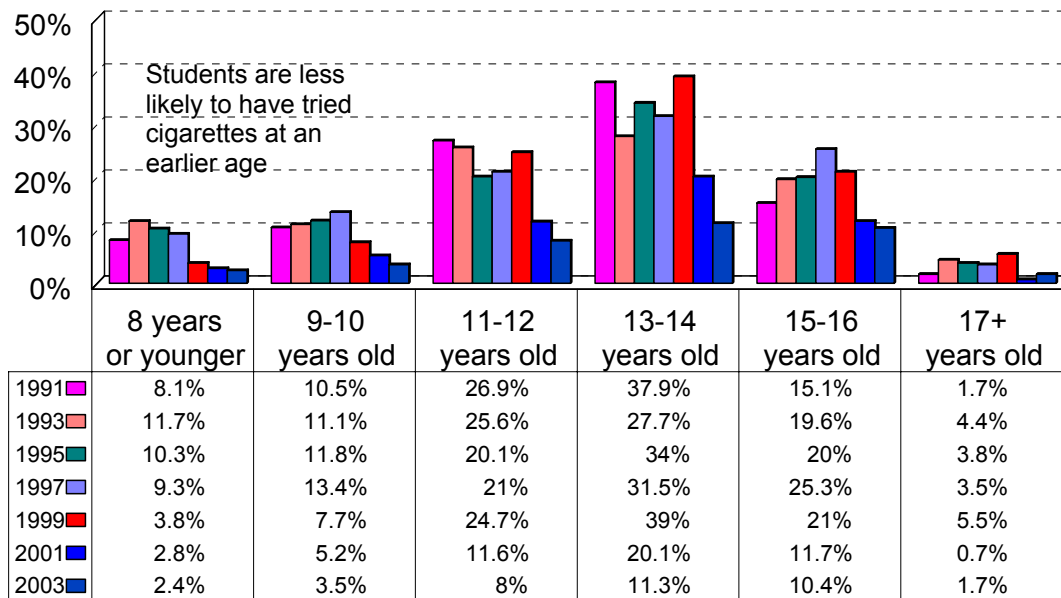
L Tobacco use among teens decreased dramatically in Lancaster County in 2003, which is also consistent with the decrease in the State. In 2003, a sharp decline in the percentage of teens reporting ever trying cigarettes during their lifetime, currently smoking, and smoking daily have been observed (Figure: 1)

Figure 1: Tobacco Use*
High School Students



L In 2003, teens reported beginning smoking at later age than in previous surveys.

Figure 2: Age at First Use*
High School Students Who Reported Ever Smoking a Whole Cigarette

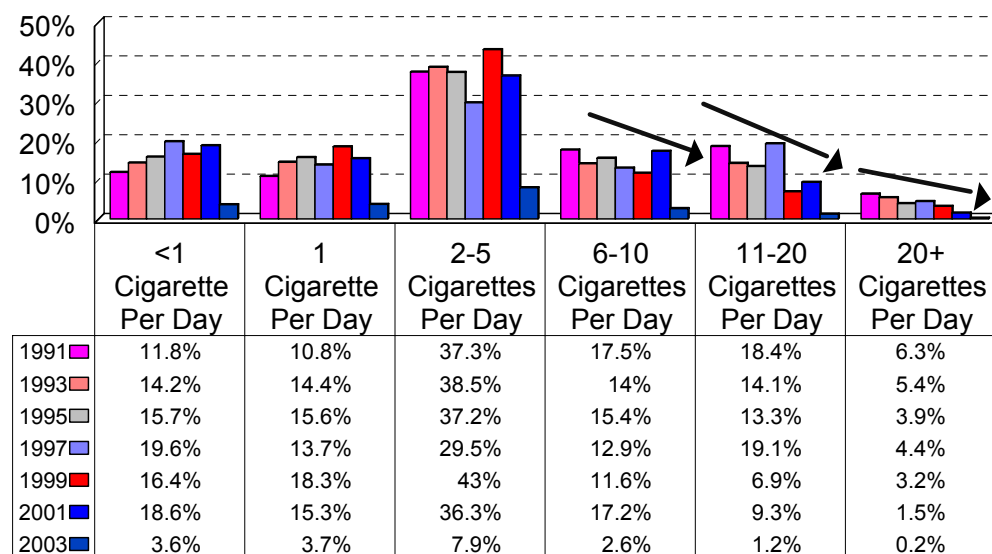


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*Grade Adjusted

L Figure 3 shows the number of cigarettes smoked by teen respondents per day. The proportion of teens who smoked 6-20 cigarettes decreased in 2003, while, the percentage of teens smoking 2-5 cigarettes has dropped significantly.

Figure 3: Number of Cigarettes Smoked Per Day*
High School Students Who Reported Smoking During the Past 30 Day



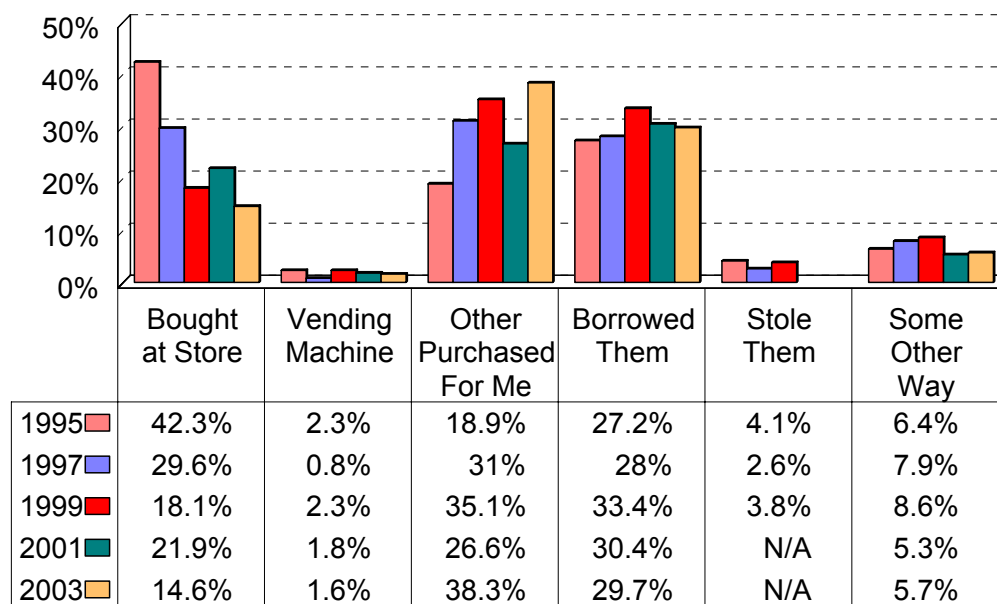
* Number of cigarettes smoked per day, on the days they smoked

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- L Most common method of obtaining a cigarette was “purchase by others”(38.3%) followed by “borrowed them” (29.7%). The percentage of teens buying cigarettes from a store has declined significantly since 1995 (Figure 4).

Figure 4: How Cigarettes Are Usually Obtained*
High School Students Who Reported Smoking During the Past 30 Day

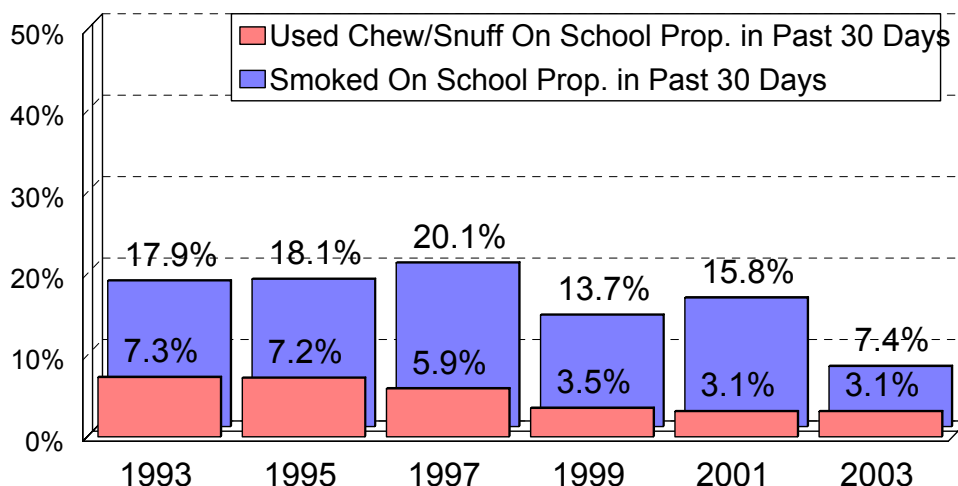


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*Grade Adjusted

- L The percentage of students using smokeless tobacco on school property declined substantially from 1993, however, the percentage of students who smoked a cigarette on school property showed an inconsistent trend.

Figure 5: Tobacco On School Property*
High School Students

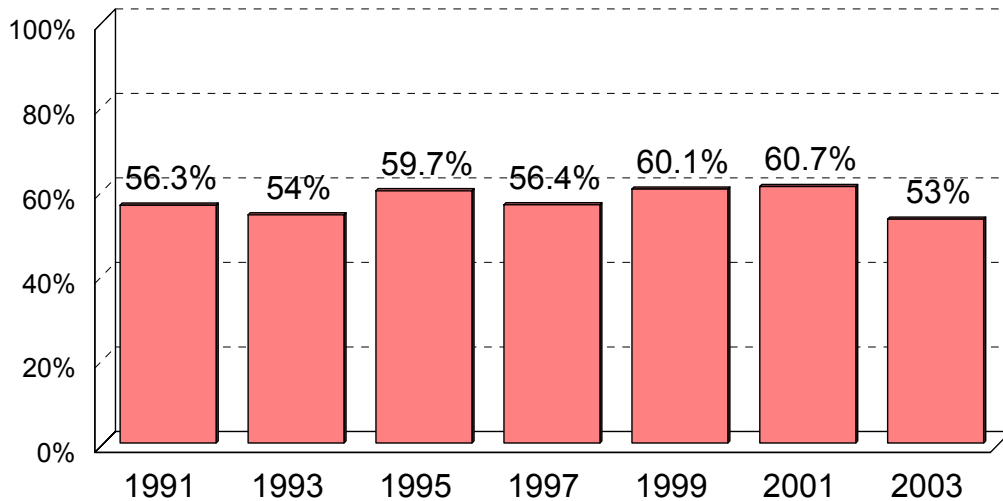


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*Grade Adjusted

- L The percentage of teen smokers (smoked in past 30 days) who reported quit attempts decreased since 2001 by 12% in 2003.

Figure 6: Ever Attempted to Quit*
High School Students Who Reported Smoking During Past 30 Days

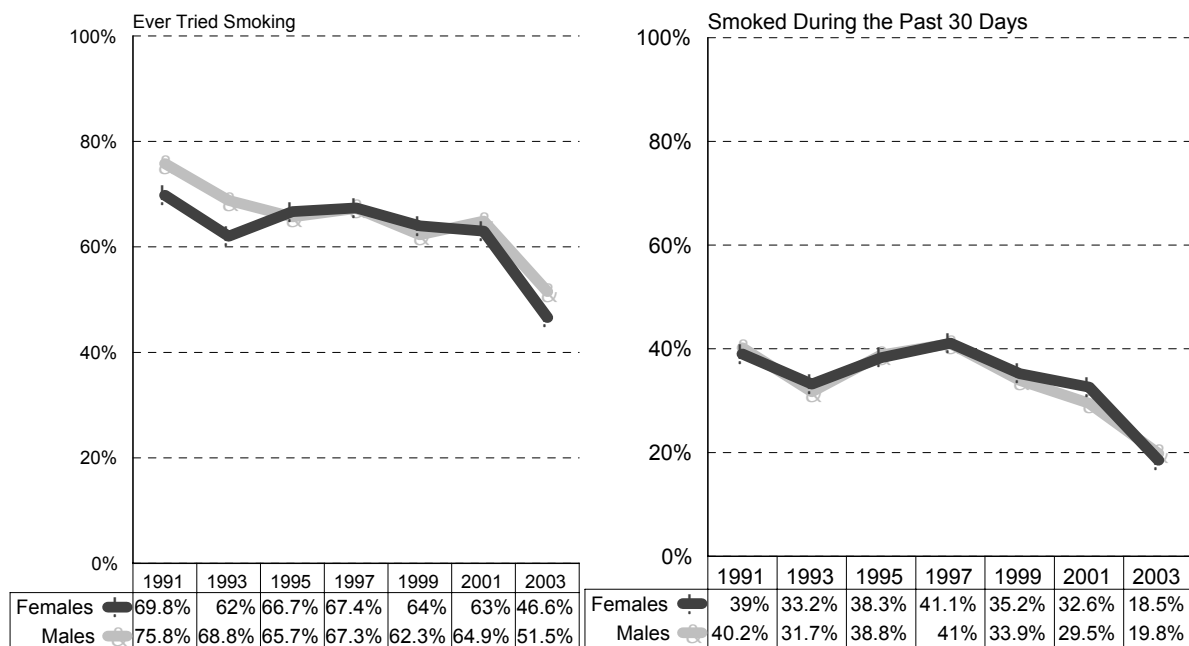


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*Grade Adjusted

- L Figures 7, 8 and 9 show trends in smoking experience, current smoking, daily smoking and smokeless tobacco use by male and female high school students.

Figure 7: Smoking Experience & Current Smoking*
High School Students



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*Grade Adjusted

Figure 8: Daily Smoking, Past 30 Days*
High School Students

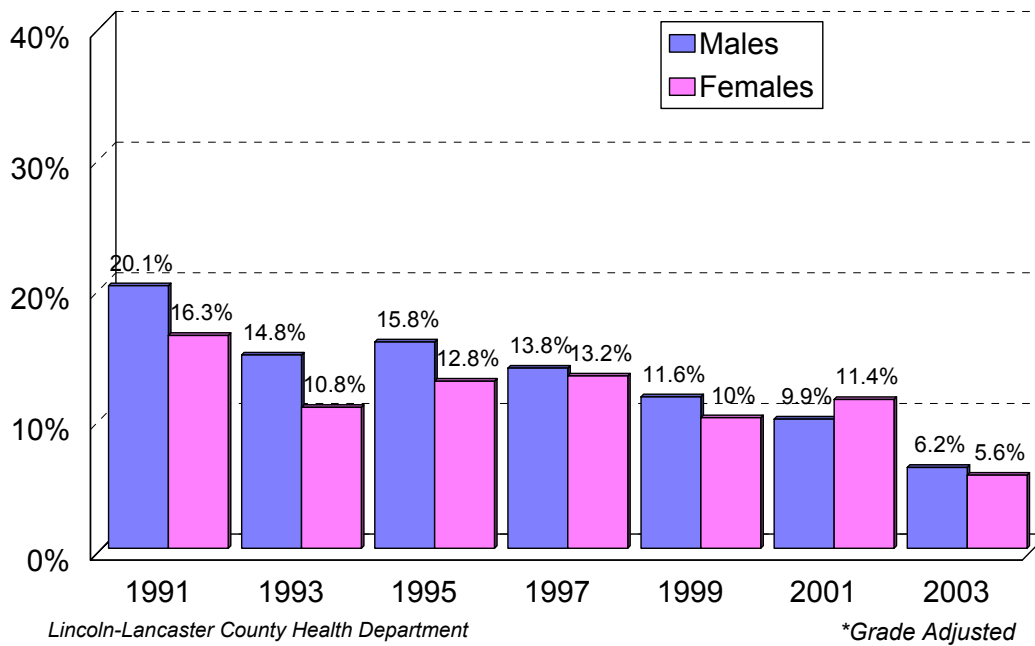
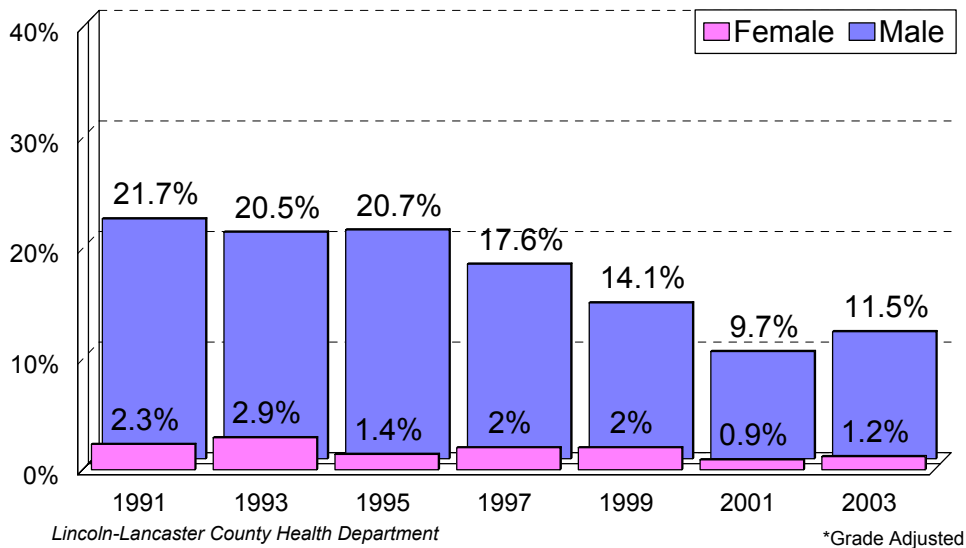
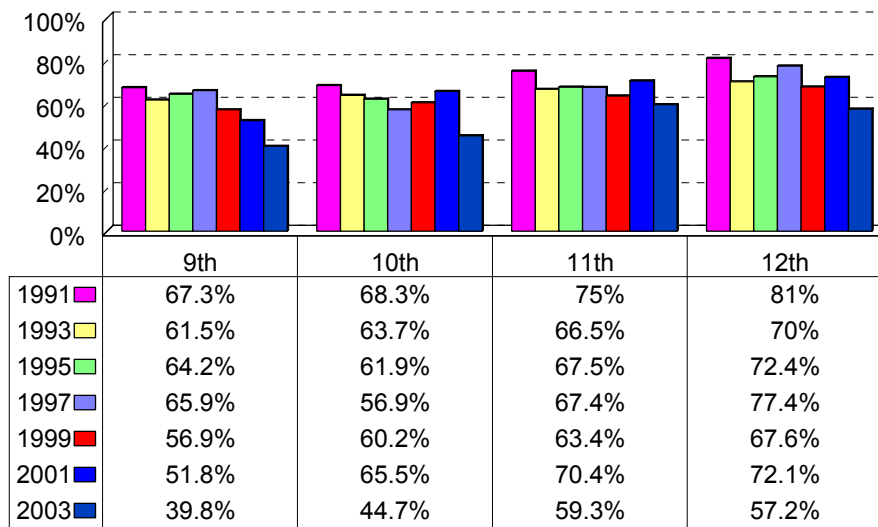


Figure 9: Smokeless Tobacco Use*
High School Students Who Reported Using Chew/Snuff
During the Past 30 Days



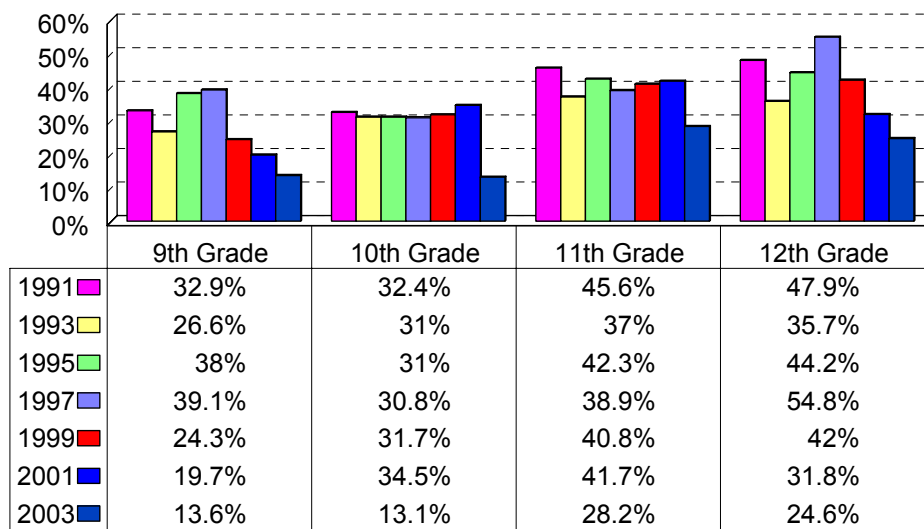
L As shown in figures 10, 11, and 12, teens in older grades reported tobacco use at higher rates than those in lower grades. The decline in tobacco use rates from 1991 to 2003 were particularly pronounced among teens of 9th grade, although 2001 to 2003 changes were apparently significant for all grade levels.

**Figure 10: Ever Smoked, by Grade
High School Students**



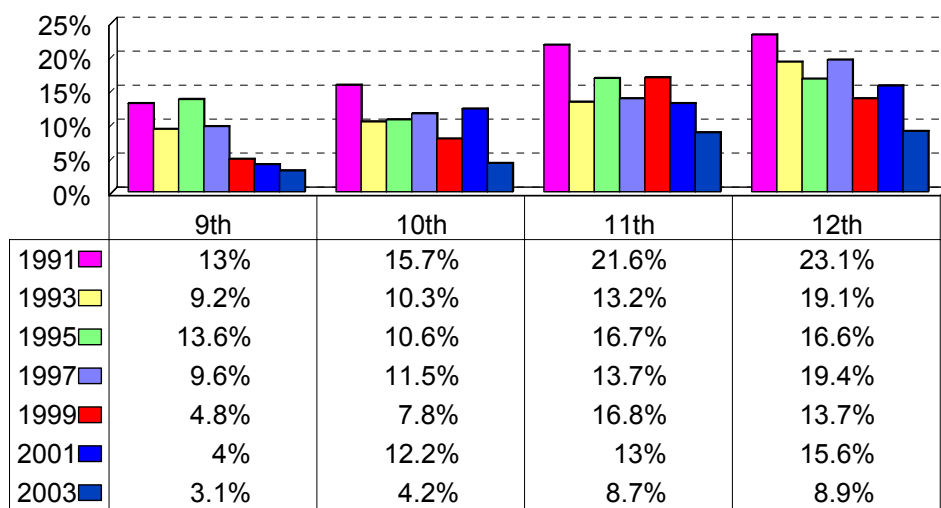
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**Figure 11: Current Smoking (Past 30 Days)
By Grade, High School Students**



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Figure 12: Daily Smoking, by Grade
(Smoked Every Day For the Past 30 Days)
High School Students



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Public Health Comment: **Tobacco**

-Sandy Keller

Tobacco use among adolescents is one of six priority health risk behaviors that reflect the major health concerns in the United States related to disease, disability and death. Often the tobacco habit is established in childhood and early adolescence, promoting a lifelong habit. In 2001, 63.9% of high school students in the U.S. reported having tried cigarette smoking. In addition, 28.5% of high school students reported smoking during the past 30 days. Tobacco use among youth in Lancaster County dramatically decreased between 1991 and 2003. In 1991, 72.8% of Lancaster County high school students reported having tried smoking and in 2003 the rate had fallen to 49.2%. In 1991, 39.6% reported smoking during the past 30 days and in 2003 that rate had also dropped to 19.1%.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that States establish tobacco control programs that are comprehensive, sustainable, and accountable. These “best practices” are determined by evidence-based analyses of comprehensive state tobacco control programs. The goal of comprehensive tobacco control programs is to reduce disease, disability, and death related to tobacco by preventing the initiation of tobacco use among young people, promoting quitting among young people and adults, eliminating nonsmokers’ exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) and identifying and eliminating the disparities related to tobacco use and its effects among different population groups.

Locally, there is a comprehensive program in place to help prevent youth initiation of tobacco use. The School-Community Tobacco Prevention Program in Lincoln and Lancaster County was established in 2000 as part of a comprehensive statewide program. Lincoln and Lancaster County Agencies representing schools, communities, and racial/ethnic minority populations, all part of the Tobacco Free Lincoln Coalition, have a continuing partnership dedicated to reducing public and worker exposure to secondhand smoke and preventing youth initiation of tobacco use. Key elements of this program include a comprehensive approach involving collaborating agencies working toward the same goal which involves media, enforcement (i.e. illegal tobacco sales to minors), policy and education. The program follows the Centers for Disease Control’s Best Practices Guidelines focusing on specific goals and using a comprehensive approach toward tobacco control.